United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General receives agreement from Interim Government of Somalia to fully comply with resolution 773 (1992); Chairman of United Somali Congress, in public statement, indicates his readiness to declare a cease-fire.

- Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia holds meetings with Cambodian and Thai officials; scheduled to return to Headquarters on Thursday.

- Upon return from Libya, Secretary-General's Envoy to that country, Vasiliy Safronchuk, reports on meetings with Libyan officials.

- Security Council considers progress report of the Secretary-General on situation in Yugoslavia, including the possibility of deploying a United Nations peacekeeping force.

- Three disarmament proposals by Germany expressing deep concern about danger of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction made public at Headquarters last week.

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The Interim Government of Somalia, in a reply to the Secretary-General, accepted yesterday the terms of the Security Council resolution 773 (1992), by which the Council, among other things, urged all parties to the conflict in Somalia to agree to a cease-fire, to promote the process of reconciliation and political settlement in the country. The Interim Government further indicated its willingness to fully comply with the provisions of the text.

In a public statement, General Mohammed Farah Aideed, Chairman of the Congress, indicated his readiness to declare a cease-fire.

The leaders of the Interim Government of Somalia and the United Somali Congress, as well as various factions, political groups and personalities involved in the conflict, had received copies of the resolution hand-delivered to them on instruction from the Secretary-General.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General is currently taking steps to coordinate further action on Somali problems with the Secretaries-General of the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States.

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Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Cambodia, en route back to New York after a six-day trip to Cambodia, met in Bangkok today with the Thai Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wichean Wattanakun. They discussed his country's involvement with the United Nations during the transition process in Cambodia, and issues dealing with refugees and de-mining. Later in the day Mr Akashi met with Son Sen, the Minister of Defense of Democratic Kampuchea. Mr Akashi is expected back in New York on Thursday, 30 January.

Before leaving Cambodia, Mr Akashi visited a refugee reception centre and a military liaison office of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) in Battambang.

Addressing a press conference before leaving Phnom Pehn on Sunday, Mr Akashi said that he had reviewed with members of the Supreme National Council (SNC) the assistance UNAMIC had been providing to maintain the cease-fire, and the expansion of its mandate to include training Cambodians in mine-clearance and the initiation of a de-mining programme.

At Headquarters yesterday the Secretary-General had informed the Security Council of his intention to ask the General Assembly for an initial appropriation of $200 million to prepare for the first phase of UNTAC.

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The Secretary-General is considering today the report of Vasiliy Safronchuk, his Envoy to Libya, of his visit to that country and his meetings with Libyan officials last weekend. His mission was undertaken at the request of the Secretary-General, in accordance with Security Council resolution 731 (1992).

The resolution requested the Secretary-General "to seek the cooperation of the Libyan Government to provide a full and effective response" to the requests of Britain, France and the United States in establishing responsibility for the criminal acts in connection with the downing of Pan American Flight 103 and UTA Flight 772.

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The Security Council held informal consultations this morning to consider a progress report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Yugoslavia. The document brought the Council up to date on the establishment of a military liaison office and on the work of Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, who is currently in Yugoslavia working to clear the way for the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force.

(more)

Following today's discussions, Council President Sir David Hannay said members had expressed support for the Secretary-General's approach to the deployment of the force. He said members felt the deployment could make "a real contribution to a peaceful solution in Yugoslavia" so long as the negotiating process in the European Community Conference on Yugoslavia was "maintained and pursued". The Council President added that United Nations and European Community activity on the Yugoslavia issue were "entirely complementary".

Last week, Dr. Boutros-Ghali had met separately with the Serbian Member of the Federal Yugoslavian Presidency and Chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation with the United Nations on peacekeeping matters, the Foreign Minister of Portugal representing the European Community and the Prime Minister of Croatia, all of whom had expressed their support for deployment of a UN peace-keeping force to Yugoslavia. The Secretary-General will report again to the Council following Mr. Goulding's return to New York tommorrow.

This morning, in consultations, the Council also took up its regular review of sanctions against Iraq, and later today members considered informally the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

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Germany has made public a summary of three disarmament proposals put forward by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher during a meeting at United Nations Headquarters last Thursday, 23 January, with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The proposals, outlined in a letter dated January 24, by Ambassador Detlev Graf Zu Rantzau to the Secretary-General, reflect the German Government's deep concern about the danger of a proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, "especially of the possible illegal spread and misuse of know-how concerning their development and production".

One calls for United Nations exploration of the creation of incentives for scientists and experts involved in the production of weapons of mass-destruction to use their knowledge for peaceful purposes, and suggests the establishment of an international foundation for peaceful technology to offer the scientists employment, research and training contracts.

A second proposal would have Member States enact legislation banning their nationals from participation in the development and production of weapons of mass-destruction, and recommends the development of an international convention providing for criminal prosecution of those nationals who do so.

A third proposal calls for sanctions against those States that try to procure material or technology for weapons of mass-destruction, saying the only body empowered to enact such sanctions is the Security Council, which could take up the matter of proliferation of such weapons as a threat to international peace and security.

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